

# ***Raduraksti*: Online Latvian Revision Lists**

Latvia “How to” Guide, Intermediate Level: Instruction

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## **GOAL**

This guide will teach you how to locate and read an original revision list record using the Latvian State Historical Archives website, *Raduraksti*.

## **INTRODUCTION**

In 1718, Tsar Peter the Great instituted a head/individual tax known as the “soul” tax. As a result, beginning in 1719, revision lists, or enumerations of the taxable population were created to identify taxpayers. There were ten revisions taken sporadically until the final revision in 1858. These revisions were lists created by the Russian empire to identify taxpayers. Because the tax system was that of a head/individual tax, all members of the household are listed. Therefore, revision lists are an important source for approximating vital events and creating family structures.<sup>1</sup>

## **HOW TO**

### **Locating a Revision List**

The *Raduraksti* website is in Latvian but can easily be navigated using this “How to” Guide. The website can be translated into English using Google Translate (when using Google Chrome, right-click anywhere on the page and select **Translate to English**). However, on some pages, you may need to use the untranslated Latvian version as some abbreviations will be translated incorrectly.

In this “How to” Guide, Latvian terms are accompanied by their English translation in parentheses.

1. Go to the *Raduraksti* website, found at [raduraksti.arhiv.lv](http://raduraksti.arhiv.lv).
2. Sign in by clicking on on **Pieslēgties (Sign in)**. If you have not registered for a free Raduraksti account, follow the instructions Click on **Reģistrēties (Register)**, found in the upper right-hand corner of the page. Enter your **Jūsu vārds un uzvārds (Name and Surname)**, **Jūsu e-pasta adrese (Email Address)**, and **Parole (Password)**. Retype your password in the **Atkārtojiet paroli (Repeat password)** box to ensure accuracy.

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<sup>1</sup> Joseph B. Everett, “‘Soul’ Searching in the Russian Censuses of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century,” *FEEFHS*, vol. 5.

Then click on **Piereģistrēties (Preregister)**. Upon registering, you will receive an email confirming the creation of your account. Be sure to check the Spam/Junk folder in your email in case the confirmation email ends up there. Click on the activation link in the email and sign in (using your email address and newly created password) to complete your *Raduraksti* registration.

3. From now on, to use the *Raduraksti* website, return to [raduraksti.arhiv.lv](http://raduraksti.arhiv.lv) and sign in by clicking on **Pieslēgties (Sign in)**.
4. To view revision list records, click on **Dvēseļu revīzijas (Revision lists – Google translates it as Audits of Souls)**. Two options will appear: **Lauku teritorijas (Rural Areas - ie. lists of manors)** and **Pilsētas (Cities)**. Choose the option that is applicable to where your ancestor lived.
5. Select your ancestor's manor, town, or city from the list of choices. Latvian spellings are used, but German spellings may be included in parentheses. In addition to the name of the manor or town, you may find additional descriptions of the location. Below are some of the most common Latvian descriptions and their English counterparts:
  - Apvidus = Area
  - Ciems = Village
  - Folvarks = Folwark (serfdom-based farm)
  - Kroņa muiža = Crown Manor
  - Mācītājmuiža = Rectory
  - Muiža = Manor
  - Privātmuiža = Private Manor
  - Pusmuiža = Half-Manor
  - Sādža = village
  - Zeme = land
6. After you have selected your desired manor, town, or city, a list of all available revision list records for that area will appear. The titles of records often include the location, the year(s), and a brief description of the record. Click on the title to view a record.
7. After you have clicked on your desired record, images of the records will appear in a thumbnail view. To view a full-sized record, click on the desired image. You can toggle between records by clicking on the arrows found the left and right sides of the page. The image number appears in the top left, while the upper right corner offers four different tools:
  - **Zoom:** Click on the magnifying glass to zoom in on the image. (You can then click on the image and drag it around to view the part of the image you are interested in).
  - **Full Screen:** This icon allows you to view the record full screen. Press Escape (esc) on your keyboard to exit this view.
  - **Link and Share:** Clicking on the arrow icon and then on **Atvērt attēlu (open image)** opens up the image in a new tab, with a URL that allows you to access

this specific image again. This link can be copied and shared or attached as a source to an online family tree.

- **Exit:** The X symbol returns you to the thumbnail view.

Notice that the pathway of items you click on (the record type, jurisdiction, town, etc.) shows up underneath the **Meklēt (search)** bar. You can click on any of these items to return to that specific step.

## Reading a Revision List

Revisions lists from Latvia may be written in either German, Russian, Latvian, or a combination of any of the above (ie. a document with Russian column headings, but the body written in Latvian). For assistance reading these documents, please see the [Latvia Taxation Records FamilySearch Wiki article](#).

## PRACTICE

Locate 1834 revision list records for Jewish ancestors who lived in the city of Liepāja.

1. Go to the *Raduraksti* website, found at [raduraksti.arhiv.lv](http://raduraksti.arhiv.lv). Sign in.
2. Next, click on **Dvēseļu revīzijas (Revision lists – Google translates it as Audits of Souls)**. Liepāja was a city so select **Pilsētas (Cities)**.
3. Locate **Liepāja** from the alphabetical list and click on it.
4. If you are using the Google Chrome Browser, right click anywhere on the page and select the option **Translate to English**. Keep in mind this is not a perfect translation but it will assist you in locating records.
5. There are five possible records that contain information about Jewish revision list records for the year 1834.
  - Liepājas ebreju 1833.–1834. gada revīzijas saraksti, 367. lieta (Liepaja Jews 1833-1834. annual audit lists, case 367).
  - Liepājas ebreju 1833.–1834. gada revīzijas saraksti, 368. lieta (Liepaja Jews 1833-1834. annual audit lists, case 368).
  - Liepājas ebreju 1833.-1834. gada revīzijas saraksti, 367. lieta (Liepaja Jews 1833-1834. annual audit lists, case 367 (Audit list of 1834 Jewish citizens in the countryside of Liepaja, case 372).
  - Liepājas ebreju – tirgotāju –1833.–1834 (Liepaja Jews – Merchants – 1833-1834).